

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 687

By Kurita

A RESOLUTION to propose amendments to Article III of the Constitution of Tennessee, relative to the offices of governor, lieutenant governor and secretary of state.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That a majority of all the members of each house concurring, as shown by the yeas and nays entered on their journals, that it is proposed:

That Article III of the Constitution of Tennessee be amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

Section 19.

A lieutenant governor shall be elected by the qualified voters of the state at the same time and for the same term as the governor. The lieutenant governor's qualifications shall, in all respects, be the same as the governor. A person may be eligible to succeed in office as lieutenant governor for additional four-year terms, provided that no person shall be eligible for election to more than two terms consecutively, including an election to a partial term. The lieutenant governor shall, at stated times, receive compensation for services, which shall not be increased or diminished during the period for which he or she shall have been elected. The lieutenant governor shall perform such duties as the governor shall assign or the general assembly shall prescribe by law.

And that Article III of the Constitution of Tennessee be further amended by deleting Section 12 in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

Section 12.

(a) As prescribed by law or at the request of the governor, the lieutenant governor shall act as governor in case of the governor's temporary incapacity or absence from the state.

(b) In case of the death, resignation or removal from office of the governor, the powers and duties of the office of governor shall devolve on the lieutenant governor; and in case of the death, resignation or removal from office of the lieutenant governor, the powers and duties of the office of governor shall devolve on the secretary of state; and in case of the death, resignation or removal from office of the secretary of state, the powers and duties of the office of governor shall devolve on the speaker of the senate; and in case of the death, resignation or removal from office of the speaker of the senate, the power and duties of the office of governor shall devolve on the speaker of the house of representatives; and in case of the death, resignation or removal from office of the speaker of the house of representatives, the power and duties of the office of governor shall devolve as determined by law.

And that Article III of the Constitution of Tennessee be further amended by deleting Section 17 in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

Section 17.

A secretary of state shall be elected by the qualified voters of the state at the same time and for the same term as the governor. The secretary of state's qualifications shall, in all respects, be the same as the governor. A person may be eligible to succeed in office as secretary of state for additional four-year terms, provided that no person shall be eligible for election to more than two terms consecutively, including an election to a partial term. The secretary of state shall, at stated times, receive compensation for services, which shall not be increased or diminished during the period for which he or she shall have been elected. The secretary of state shall keep a fair register of all the official acts and

proceedings of the governor and shall, when required, lay the same, and all papers, minutes and vouchers relative thereto, before the general assembly. The secretary of state shall perform such other duties as the general assembly shall prescribe by law.

And that Article III of the Constitution of Tennessee be further amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

SECTION 20.

During the thirty-day period immediately following the 2014 August general election, and during the same period every four years thereafter, each candidate for governor shall select a candidate for lieutenant governor and another candidate for secretary of state. At the 2014 November general election, and every four years thereafter, each voter shall cast a single vote for a slate of three candidates running together for the offices of governor, lieutenant governor and secretary of state. The slate of the governor chosen pursuant to Article III, Section 2, shall be deemed to be elected.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon ratification of the amendments proposed herein at the 2010 November general election, until the 2014 November general election, the speaker of the senate shall continue to be lieutenant governor and the general assembly shall continue to appoint the secretary of state by joint vote of both houses, however, no such appointment shall extend beyond the 2014 November general election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the foregoing shall be referred to the One Hundred Sixth General Assembly and that this resolution proposing such amendments be published by the secretary of state in accordance with Article XI, Section 3 of the Constitution of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the clerk of the senate is directed to deliver a copy of this resolution to the secretary of state.